(b) to (d) Ministry of Finance has already sanctioned proposed staff for the purpose. Bureau of Immigration has deployed IB personnel to man maximum number of counters during peak hours, thereby reducing waiting time at Immigration as per norms set up by ICAO.

State-of-art airports

315. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the State-of-art airports inaugurated during the current financial year; and

(b) the details of the extent of participation of private sector in the construction of these airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) A new Green field airport called, Bangalore International Airport has been commissioned on 24th May, 2008 at Devanahalli near Bangalore.

(b) The Greenfield airport project has been implemented on Build Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis with Public - Private - Participation (PPP). Government of Karnataka (GoK) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) together hold 26% equity and a Consortium comprising of Siemens, Germany, Unique Zurich, Switzerland and Larsen and Toubro India Limited, hold the balance 74%.

Helicopter services in the country

316. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the infrastructure requirements for helicopter operations in India;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to import helicopters for commercial operations in India;

(c) whether civilian air routes have been chalked out for the purpose;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) the certification and licensing procedures for building helipads;

(f) whether there is a tariff regulating authority for commercial operations of helicopters in India; and

(g) whether the commercial operators are free to charge any fare to cover cost of operations and make profit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present dedicated infrastructure for operation of helicopters does not exist. The helicopters are operated from normal airports. However, at Mumbai, Juhu airport is being predominantly used for helicopter operations for off-shore flights.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of Government to import helicopters. However, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited has plans to buy 16 helicopters.

(c) No, Sir.